

25X1A2a

~~RESTRICTED~~

25X1A

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Economic Information: Chinese Seamen's Union

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

INFO

DIST.

PAGES 1
SUPPLEMENT

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 15 October 1983 from the
Director, Intelligence to the

25X1X6
ORIGIN

1. At the present time, China's merchant marine and shipping is in a state of re-organization. More ships are being purchased, new routes are being authorized by the Chinese government, and sailors are being trained to man this new Chinese merchant marine. Although Dr. SUN Yat-sen recognized the need for a union of the merchant marine, the Chinese Seamen's Special Commissioners Office was not established until 1935. Lt General YANG Hu, police garrison commander in Shanghai in 1932, was appointed chairman. His staff consists of about a hundred people. The governing body of the organization is the Ministry of Social Affairs.
2. The Commission has been organizing the Chinese sailors into a union for about ten years. Today there is a total membership of approximately 100,000; 30,000 of these in Shanghai alone.
3. The work of the organization was hindered during the war. Even today it still is not strong enough to force desired reforms through collective bargaining, although at present it is aiding the seamen of Jardine & Matheson in their fight for higher wages. When a national constitution is adopted, the Chinese Seamen's Special Commissioner's Office will be reorganized into the National Chinese Seamen's Union, similar to the National Maritime Union in the United States.
4. The organization draws its financial support from two sources: (1) a membership fee of 600 CNC per month from each member, and (2) a subsidy from the National Treasury for payment of the staff. The main office of the Commission is located at No. 171 Chapoo Road, Shanghai. There is an executive committee under which there are five sections: (1) the Organizing and Training Section, (2) the General Affairs Section, (3) the Business Section, (4) the Investigating Section, and (5) the Welfare and Benefit Section. In addition to these, there is also a Demobilization Commission.
5. Members are usually divided into three classifications:
Class I: Officers, engineers, wireless operators, No.1 electricians in motor vessels, and ship's doctors.
Class II: Boatswain or second boatswain, carpenter or second carpenter, quartermaster in seagoing vessels other than tankers, No.1 fireman, fitter, electrician, pumpman, chief steward, chief (or ship's) cook, No.1 painter.
Class III: Quartermaster in tanker, fireman, engine room hand, wiper, trimmer, greaser, storekeeper, sailor, deckhand, donkeyman, painter, assistant steward, cook, laundryman, general servant, and crew boy.

CLASSIFICATION ~~RESTRICTED~~

WARNING NOTICE: THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE C

ADSO	x	A DEP.	x	FBT	SPDT	FD	WARNING NOTICE THIS DISTRIBUTION LISTING MUST BE CL.
DADSO		FBK		FBV	SPDS	F DEP	
EXEC.		FBL		FBX			
CONTROL		Approved For Release					
PLANS	x	FBP		SPDA			